

2019

Bridger Teton National Forest Annual Fire Report



Photo Credit Kari

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Contents

Introduction	3
Bridger Teton National Forest 40-Year Fire History.....	4
Acreage and Number of Fires by District	4
2019 North Zone Fuels Accomplishments	4
2019 West Zone Accomplishments	7
2019 East Zone Accomplishments	7
Aviation Branch / Helitack Summary	9
Fire Prevention, Education and Information	10
Teton Wildland Fire Module	14
Teton Interagency Fire Ecology Program.....	16
Teton Interagency Dispatch Center	20
Land Ownership Report	22

Introduction

The 2019 Bridger Teton wildland fire season had a below normal number of fire starts with a total of 31 fires, compared with an average of 41 fires over a 10 year period. In 2019 there were 15 human- caused fires, 16 lightning caused fires, and 142 abandoned campfires. Total acreage burned was 15 acres compared to the 10 year average which is 20,879.34 acres.

With the below average load on the Bridger Teton National Forest, a large portion of the Forest resources were able to be rotated to other parts of the country to help out with large fire assignments.

The first fire of the Bridger Teton National Forest season was discovered May 26th on the Blackrock Ranger District; the last fire reported was October 16th on the Blackrock Ranger District.

Two of the three Western Wyoming Type III Teams deployed off unit as national resources three times for a total of 37 days.

Slide

This lightning caused fire detected on July 19 burned 3 acres north of Hoback Ranches in the Big Piney Ranger District. West Yellowstone Smokejumpers initially staffed the fire with East Zone resources and the Interagency helicopter assisting the following operational periods.

Box Creek

This lightning caused fire detected on July 20 burned 2 acres of mixed conifer in the Teton Wilderness Area of the Blackrock Ranger District, 3 miles north of the Buffalo Valley Road. Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) was utilized to provide information of current fire status and produce an intelligence product for managers to utilize in planning a Course of Action which incorporated confine and point protection strategies for management of the fire.

Flat Creek

This lightning caused fire detected on August 12 burned 0.3 acres of mixed conifer in steep terrain north and east of Flat Creek Ranch. This fire was located within the Gros Ventre Wilderness Area of the Jackson Ranger District. Fire objectives included the protection of life and property, enhancement of wilderness natural values, and safe and effective utilization of fire fighting resources. Fire managers utilized point protection, confine, and monitor strategies to meet objectives. The Teton Fire module was deployed to implement these strategies as well as provide information to public and relay fire-behavior and local weather information to fire management specialists.

Highline

This lightning caused fire detected on September 23 burned 0.6 acres of mixed conifer near Gros Peak of the Gros Ventre Wilderness Area of the Jackson Ranger District. 2 helitack were deployed to provide fire managers with information of the current fire behavior and growth, take necessary actions, and to provide hunters/users of the area with timely information.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center (TIDC) dispatched 47 wildland fires, totaling 379.84 acres, during the 2019 fire season. The Bridger Teton NF had 31 fires; Grand Teton National Park had 9 fires; the National Elk Refuge had 0 fires; Wyoming State Forestry Division had 1 fire; Teton County had 6 fires and Sublette and Lincoln Counties had 0 fires.

Bridger Teton National Forest 40-Year Fire History

	HCF	HCA	LCF	LCA	Total Fires	Total Acres
40yr Average	27	7920.35	36	7855.86	63	15708.49
30yr Average	23	6689.72	37	5256.79	60	11946.51
20yr Average	20	9249.80	36	7514.23	56	16764.04
10yr Average	17	14300.17	24	6579.15	41	20879.34
5yr Average	18	11984.52	17	6130.54	34	18115.04
2019	15	6.00	16	9.00	31	15.00

Acreage and Number of Fires by District

District	Human Fires	Human Acres	Lightning Fires	Lightning Acres
Kemmerer	2	0.40	2	1.10
Big Piney	1	0.10	3	3.20
Greys River	2	0.20	1	0.10
Jackson	5	1.20	7	2.30
Buffalo	3	2.80	2	2.10
Pinedale	2	1.30	1	0.20
Total	15	6.00	16	9.00
Total BTF Fires/Acres Fires 31 Acres 15.00				

2019 North Zone Fuels Accomplishments

Implementation

The Teton to Snake Fuels Reduction Project, located west of Jackson, south of Teton Village and north of the Snake River corridor in one of the highest risk wildland urban interfaces on the Forest. The decision for this project was signed in July 2017 and is a focus area within the Teton County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The project includes both mechanical thinning and prescribed fire treatments on approximately 9,400 acres. Project implementation began in 2017 and will continue for several years to come, including non-commercial thinning adjacent to a BPA powerline which supplies the majority of power to Jackson and is vulnerable to wildfire.

In 2019, 184 acres were thinned, pruned and piled using an 8A contractor. 99 acres of piles were

burned in 2018 within the Teton To Snake project area. Prescribed burn unit preparation was completed on the Mosquito Creek Unit. This unit was accomplished on 123 acres by contract crews.

Funding from WWNRT and RMEF grants were utilized to support invasive species management on planned (mechanical and prescribed fire) and unplanned activities (wildfires) within the Teton to Snake project area. These funds were used in an existing collaboration between Teton County Weed and Pest and the Bridger-Teton National Forest. 2,342 acres were surveyed for invasive species, 187 infestations were baseline mapped or revisited and shown to still exist and 101 acres of infestations were treated. This information will be used to formulate a plan that includes priority for treatments in 2020, allows for monitoring of project effects on invasive species in the area and allows managers to better plan future project in the area.

Additionally, using force account the North Zone retreated (slashed conifer encroachment in Aspen stands) on 75 acres within Dry Quad unit, part of the Central Buffalo Valley Habitat Improvement project. The plan will be to prescribe burn the Dry Quad unit in the fall of 2020 for Aspen restoration.

Broadcast Burning

Trails End	105 acres	Jackson District	Teton to Snake WUI Fuels Mitigation
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Pile Burning

Blackrock Admin Site	124 acres	Blackrock District	pine beetle clean up, snags and dead and down
Teton to Snake Rec. Trails	93 acres	Jackson District	Pile burning from contracted thinning
Teton to Snake Phillips Bench Unit 2 (North half)	75 acres	Jackson District	Pile burning from contracted thinning

Mechanical Thinning

Teton to Snake Phillips Bench Unit 2 (south)	58 acres	Jackson District	Hand thin, limb, and pile contract
Teton to Snake Phillips Bench Unit 7	145	Jackson District	Hand thin, limb, and pile contract

Teton to Snake Mosquito Creek North Rx Prep	123	Jackson District	Slashing on east and west flanks of prescribed fire unit
Central Buffalo Valley Habitat Enhancement	106	Jackson District	Slashing of conifers in aspen stand. Planned Rx in late spring 2020

Broadcast Burning

The first burn entry was accomplished in the spring of 2019 on the Trails End Prescribed Burn Unit. This is a 371 acre unit on a west and southwest face, adjacent to and east of the Trails End Ranch, and west of Red Top Meadows Subdivision. The burn unit consisted of widely distributed bitterbrush and sage with pockets of aspen present throughout the unit and isolated stands of lodgepole pine. 105 acres of sage and bitterbrush were successfully burned and objectives were met to reduce fuels loading and potential flame length from fire adjacent to the Trails End Ranch. Under Teton to Snake, Highland Hills Unit 1 Mechanical, was converted to a prescribed fire unit and much of the 29 acre unit was burned utilizing an “active pile burning” broadcast burn plan. Jackpots were added to, trees were thinned, pruned, snags removed and resultant slash was burned in piles and where possible, broadcast burning over small sections. Overall this treatment was a huge success by accomplishing fuels objectives and strengthening community support for work in this area and adjacent subdivisions. This treatment will serve as a buffer and holding feature between private land and the larger Taylor Mountain Rx Unit 2.

Planning

The North Zone Fuels and Timber staff is currently working with a third party NEPA contractor to plan a timber salvage CE around Togwotee Mountain Lodge within the WUI boundary. In conjunction with the BTNF Wildlife shop, a prescribed fire project, 677 acres, within the Upper Gros Ventre area is being planned for implementation in 2020. Additionally, planning efforts have been initiated for project development within the Shadow Mountain/Lost Creek Ranch area.

2019 West Zone Accomplishments

Implementation

Engine 411 and Engine 631 were successful in getting the Basin Creek unit burned this spring. An additional 5 acres were planned to be burned this fall but due to weather this did not occur. We were successful in completing some of the burning of individual piles in the Star Valley Ranch.

The fuels AFMO and tech used GPS to map out the Star Valley Ranch fuel piling project and Strawberry Star Valley Front project which were planned to burn last fall; but due to weather this was not accomplished. Engine 411 was successful in getting the project boundary cut on the Little Hornet burn unit.

Both engines mitigated all hazard trees in the surrounding camp grounds. Engine 411 was successful in brushing out Hams Fork and Fontenelle roads. Engine 631 was successful in brushing out and piling on the Cottonwood Creek road. Both engines were successful in suppressing the fires within the West zone. A Fuels AFMO and a Fire Ops AFMO were also detailed in to the West zone. They successfully monitored fuel moistures within the zone. During the high fire danger, both crews patrolled, posted signs, and made a presence with the public helping keep fires to a minimum.

Pile Burning

Star Valley Ranch	10 Acres	Boundary slash and pile fuel break along Star Valley Ranch
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Broadcast Burning

Basin Creek	150 Acres	Fuels slash disposal and wildlife habitat improvement
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Planning

For the summer of 2020, both Engine crews will be working in the LaBarge drainage area doing prep work; and GPS'ing potential burn units and slash units. We will be hosting a show me trip with specialists to look at new project boundaries for the LaBarge and Tri Basin project units; with some planned implementations in 2020. We also hope to implement burning slash piles at the Star Valley Ranch and Big Park logging units that were piled last summer by contractors. We have two burns planned for this coming spring, weather permitting, Strawberry Star Valley Ranch and the 5 acres near Basin Creek.

2019 East Zone Accomplishments

Implementation

The East Zone Fuels Program provided approximately 3000 acres of target to the Forest and Idaho POD in 2019. 2 broadcast slash burns and over 259 acres of piles were burned over the course of the year. 2 contracts were awarded and completed, and one timber sale was completed while another timber sale was awarded, and a third timber sale continued with implementation. All three sales are part of the B-T integrated fuels/timber program within the

Skyline WUI Fuels Reduction Project. Monument Ridge NEPA was signed in 2019 and will be the next large project on the East Zone with large landscape prescribed fire treatments along with several large contracts for thin and slash along with thin and pile. Due to the slow fire season east zone fire crews and support from the fire module were able to complete several acres of thinning that were not available for contract or timber sale which also provided roughly 300 cords of wood to the local public. Public notifications were provided well in advance of these implementation projects and feedback was positive particularly with the fire wood program. The Brush Disposal (BD) program was fully successful completing all BD scheduled burning on 2 sales and several programmatic piles were also burned for range, recreation, and permittee piles. East Zone fuels personnel also contributed to the forest and POD timber target assisting on Allen Park, Big Springs, South Rim and Rim timber sales.

Rx Burning

Name	Location	Size/Type	Objectives
Pile Burning (Several Units)	Skyline WUI	259 acres/Type III	WUI Fuels Reduction
West Fort Rx	Skyline WUI	190 acres/Type I	WUI Fuels Reduction
Sjhoberg Rx	McDougal Gap	71 acres/Type II	Aspen Restoration
Brush Disposal	Skyline WUI	2 sales 40 acres total/Skyline WUI	WUI Fuels Reduction
Totals:	16 Sites	520-acres Rx burn 15,540 Piles	Multiple

Mechanical Thinning

Name	Location	Size/Type	Objectives
North Corridor Contract	Skyline WUI	243 acres Thin/Pile	WUI Fuels Reduction
South Fort Contract	Skyline WUI	140 acres Thin/Pile & Slash	WUI Fuels Reduction
Sweeney Contract	Skyline WUI	113 acres Thin/Slash	WUI Fuels Reduction
Force account	Skyline WUI	33 acres Thin/Pile/Yard	WUI Fuels Reduction
Cabins Post and Pole Timber Sale	Skyline WUI	17 acres Thin/Yard/Deck	WUI Fuels Reduction
Totals:	14 Sites	546 acres mx 300 cords fire wood	WUI

Planning

The Skyline Fuels Reduction project will be in its 4th full year of implementation in 2020. For the 2020 season; two service contracts have been awarded, Old Wagon Road (200 Acres) and North Fort (20 acres) and Hummer timber sale (27 Acres) will be completed and Hummer II post and pole (39 Acres) will be implemented and completed. South Fort Rx slash burn (300 Acres) is scheduled for 2020 spring along with Sjhoberg Rx Aspen Restoration (75 Acres) and over 300 acres of hand piles for spring and fall. This will be the last big implementation year for Skyline WUI for contracting and burning however, two more years will be needed to accomplish the

remaining piles and smaller force account thinning units. This project was projected for approximately 7 years of implementation and is on schedule to be completed within 6 years. Monument Ridge will begin with a planned 1600 acres contract which includes mostly thin and slash with some small hand thin/piles units too. The project implementation is projected for 7-10 years pending prescribed fire windows and contract funding.

Aviation Branch / Helitack Summary

The Aviation Branch of Teton Interagency Fire contains a combination of resources from Bridger Teton National Forest (BTF) and Grand Teton National Park (GRTE). The program consists of an Interagency Aviation Officer that provides oversight and quality assurance, Teton Helitack which supports all hazard and project missions with two exclusive use contracted type 3 helicopters, Jenny Lake Rangers of GRTE who provide SAR, EMS, and fire support, and militia from other divisions within BTF and GRTE.

There was light initial attack activity on the BTF and GRTE, which the helitack crew responded to, and two cooperator incidents within Teton County, which the Aviation Branch significantly supported with our aircraft and aviation management.

1. Provided aviation planning, aircraft management, and project execution for BTF and GRTE CIO, Wildlife, and Facilities divisions to include the following:
 - a. Managed the GRTE ACETA missions in cooperation with Wyoming Game and Fish
 - b. Continued aviation planning and delivery of rock and trail building equipment to the backcountry of GRTE in support of the Jenny Lake Renewal Trail Project.
 - c. Provide mission support and aircraft management for mountain top communication sites.
 - d. Backhauled old fencing from the Gros Ventre River corridor in support of a cooperative effort between the Forest and local organizations protecting wildlife.
 - e. Delivered trail building material via helicopter long line to the Josie's Ridge trail on Snow King Mountain for the Jackson District trail crew.
2. Provided management and supervisory level aviation program overview training and local unit 200 level training.
3. Enhanced cooperation and communication with partners and other users of the airspace over BTF and GRTE.

Teton Helitack provided key leadership and overhead positions while supporting the Teton Interagency Hand Crew. In 2019, they filled a variety of single resource positions including FFT1, ICT5, ICT4, HEBM, HMGB, SHLS, ABRO, an Archeologist and Fire Line EMT's. The crew was also able to provide trainees for ASGS, TFLD, FIRB, HMGB, ICT5, FFT1 and of course HECM.

Teton Helitack supported prescribed fire projects and wildfire operations on National Forest in

Florida, Davidson River Job Corps, New Mexico Forestry, Prescott, NF, Apache-Sitgreaves NF, Clearwater-Nez Pierce NF, and Teton and Sublette Counties. The crew also supported Wenatchee and Payson Exclusive Use Helitack crews with short haul spotter and HMGB personnel. The following table represents the helicopter work completed in 2019 by the Teton interagency aviation branch and helicopters.

Helitack Statistics	35HX	38HX
Days on Contract	160	121
Initial Attack Responses	22	16
Large Fires Supported	3	4
SAR Hours Flown	19.9	6.2
Passengers Transported	863	433
Total Gallons Water	38172	30864
Hours Fire / Non-fire	102.6/67.2	105/21.4
Total Flight Hours	169.8	126.4
Total Contract Cost	\$746655	\$594,348

Teton Helitack assisted with pre-season training by supporting and taking lead in the following courses and events:

- PSD Refresher: Course facilitation and lead/unit instructors, Jackson, WY
- RT130/190 Fire Refreshers: unit instructors, Jackson, WY
- WCT Work Capacity Test Administration, Jackson, WY
- Taught at the US Forest Service National Short Haul Academies in Tucson and Jackson.
- Provided CRM instruction for Short Haul Academies and neighboring Forest.

Medical response within Teton Helitack was supported in 2019 with 10 EMT qualified responders; Teton Helitack continued as one of four USFS Short Haul programs. Three Jenny Lake Ranges who attended the academy were qualified as USFS Short Haulers. Additionally, Teton Helitack provided one of the R-4 Check Spotters for the USFS Short Haul Program.

Fire Prevention, Education and Information

Priorities and Focus of Zone Fire Prevention Programs

The priorities and focus of the Forest fire prevention programs are four-fold scope.

1. The prevention of unwanted human caused wildfires thru education and patrols
2. Coordinate with communities adjacent to public lands in approaches and practices in supporting Fire Adaptive Communities and Fire Resilient Landscapes
3. Education on fires role in ecological processes
4. Fire incident support primarily through public information and education.

Fire Restrictions

No fire restrictions were put in place on the Forest as agreed upon through talking with cooperators. Teton County did go into Stage I fire restrictions from 9/1-10 prompted by the Museum and Saddle Butte fires. Fire danger escalated to Very High on 8/20 with multiple Red Flag Warning days for low RH and high wind coinciding with the start of hunting season. Three Fire Prevention Patrollers were brought in to aid the zones with patrols and public education. The focus was on education about current fire danger and our number one human caused fires are hunter warming fires, as well as information on current fire activity.

Fire Detection, Education, & Prevention Patrols

Forest protection and fire detection patrols continue to support public education efforts and the suppression of multiple unattended campfires. Fire prevention patrols continue to be an effective means for helping with education efforts in campfire safety to area visitors and with detection. In response to the continued rise in visitor numbers to the north zone and the adjacent National Parks, this fire management area continues to have the highest numbers for campfire issues with 90% of the total unattended campfire violations being detected on the 4 and 6 Ranger Districts and Grand Teton National Park alone. Solutions to help address the increase visitor use and resource protection issues is now in place with area ambassadors who help to patrol in the high use areas and assist with education on fire, wildlife and camping regulations. The zone continues to evaluate the issues and is looking to develop a more permanent solution to include campgrounds and day use only areas though the NEPA process in 2021.

Budget

The Prevention/Education budget has remained steady for the most part and we typically receive \$7,500 in total. We divide the budget so that each zone has \$2,000 for their program needs and \$1,500 is tagged for the overall Forest needs such as Unicorn signs, fire danger rating signs, Smokey Bear Pocket calendars, or other occasional large item purchases. Two fire trespass investigations have awarded restitution funds totaling \$1,300 back to the forest. One grant was awarded from the NFPA Wildfire Preparedness Day to help support defensible space education.

With the additional workload of Smokey 75th activities, money was made available from the RO. We requested and received \$15,756, which we used to purchase 2 Smokey costumes, 3 fire danger rating signs, a pop-up event canopy, banners, and additional prevention education materials. We also used a significant portion to promote hunter warming fire education. Randy Newburg, a well-known hunting personality, recorded a [podcast](#) centered on warming fire safety and public land stewardship. We also had 2,000 hunter orange 'buffs' with hunter fire and bear safety messages made which were very popular with hunters and serve as a reminder to extinguish fires and be Bear Aware.



Smokey celebrating his 75th birthday at the Deadline Lookout open house.

Fire Adapted Communities

Community wildfire protection groups continue to develop local support and opportunities in fire adapted communities' fire resilient landscape education. The 2019 outreach and education season provided the chance to establish the Teton Wildfire Ambassador program (TWAP) within Teton County. Through collaboration with the Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition, 8 homeowners' associations have committed individuals who have attended 12 hour trainings on Ready Set Go, Firewise to help support their neighbors in best firewise practices and share fire adapted community information. These ambassadors also inform neighbors of fire danger concerns and information on prescribed fires. A Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network workshop was provided to 26 individuals for NGO, Private and federal groups looking to build fire ambassadors programs.

Alpine Fire Chief, Mike Vogt reached out to surrounding partners, including TAWPC, CMAT, C-T NF, B-T NF, BLM, Wyoming Game & Fish, State Forestry and counties, the Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (AAWPC) was formed in June 2019 in response to the need to mitigate wildfire risk on public and private lands in the Alpine area. Outreach and education committee will provide an open house in February of 2020 for the community of Alpine.

Incident Information

Although the Forest had no fires over 3 acres, the Information staff assisted neighboring agencies with three large fires. The 89-acre lightning caused Museum Fire started on private land with County



Alpine Fire Chief, Mike Vogt, works with residents in the Rees Neighborhood. Fire personnel are one of the most trusted authorities to move residents to act.

protection and burned a small portion of Fish and Wildlife Service lands. The 250-acre Saddle Butte Fire was a human start from mylar balloons in the town of Jackson and burned State and private land. The 1,389 acre Burnt Lake Fire was also a human start (exploding target) on BLM land burning onto Sublette County/private lands and Forest Service land. All these fires were fast evolving, unified interagency command, with evacuations of private homes and others, and multiple resources and tactics used. The successful efforts on these incidents highlight the relationships we have cultivated over the past several decades.

Approximately 1/3 of all BT fires occurred during hunting season as confirmed or suspected warming fires.

Prevention Education personnel also supported several prescribed burn projects with information and other support; Skyline Fuels Reduction, Hams Fork Vegetation Treatment Project, Star Valley Ranch Fuels

Reduction Project, Star Valley Front Vegetation Project, Grouse Mtn Whitebark Restoration, Beaver Mtn Rx, and Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project.

Outreach Education Programs



Pinedale first graders 'won' a party with Smokey Bear by raising the most money for the Roosevelt Fire Relief Fund during the cross county 'Penny Wars'.

birthday parties, Jeopardy trivia games, social media posts, Smokey appearances and the development of a Pendleton Smokey 75th limited addition Blanket helping to raise funds for national fire prevention efforts.

The Fire Prevention staff on the Forest continues to support conservation, forest protection, Firewise and "Ready-Set- Go" training efforts through our community, forest and regional wide outreach programs. Public Information on wildfires, prescribed burns, abandoned campfires, fire danger, home assessments and defensible space and fire education was provided through the tetonfires.com website. Education and enforcement for Forest resource protection efforts included: forest regulations, campfire and fire safety, bear safety and food storage, travel plan implementation and restricted motorized vehicle regulations.

This year we celebrated Smokey Bear's 75th Birthday with special activities such as



Programs for 2019

• Jackson Hole Weed & Pest Expo	• Oyster Ridge Music Festival with Smokey Bear
• Smokey Puppet Show & Storytime	• Summer Expo Pinedale Aquatic Center
• Wyoming Land Trust Nature Camp	• Fire ecology hike with Teton Science School
• Jackson Hole Rodeo	• Big Piney & Pinedale Library Reading Programs
• Big Piney Pre-School Expo	• Children's Discovery Center Smokey Story
• Teton County Science Fair	• NRCS Provider Pals Pinedale Elementary
• JH National Public Lands Day Event	• JH Wild Fest 700 students
• BOCES Early Education Program	• County Fair: Lincoln, Teton
• National Fishing Day with Smokey Bear, Afton	• Wind River fire ecology/prevention classes
• Moran Chipper Day and Firewise Picnic	• Turpin Ranch Winter Trails Day Event
• Lincoln Co. Child Development Centers	• Fourth Grade Rendezvous
• Green River Mtn Man parade	• Big Piney Parade of Lights
• Big Piney Preschool Expo	• Big Piney Preschool Expo
• Star Valley Medical Center Safety Days	• Fossil Fest Parade, Kemmerer
• Pinedale First Grade Smokey Birthday Party - 100 first grade students, 15 educators	

• Jackson Lake Lodge, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Jackson Town Square Smokey Birthday
• Dendrochronology, Fire History, Fire Ecology and Prevention for Boys and Girl Scouts
• Sublette County BOCES after school classes – Tree Stories (Dendrochronology & Tree ID)
• Big Piney Elementary Summer School class - Tree Stories (Dendrochronology & Tree ID)
• Deadline Lookout Open House & Smokey B-Day Party
• Ready Set Go presentation to Teton County CERT
• USAID Fire Prevention and Fire Suppression Training
• Old West Days Parade & Town Square with Smokey Bear
• 4th of July parades Big Piney, Jackson, Afton, Alpine, Thayne, Star Valley Ranch
• Spring Expo at the Pinedale Aquatic Center (PAC)
• Children’s Discovery Center Touch-A-Truck
• Smokey Bear Jeopardy trivia game – 205 FS employees
• Sublette County BOCES after school lessons Tree Stories (dendrochronology & tree ID), Fire Management – Practices, Equipment and Tools
• Children’s Discovery Center Touch-A-Truck
• Big Piney Elementary Summer School Program – Tree Stories (Dendrochronology & Tree ID)
• Spring Expo at the Pinedale Aquatic Center (PAC)
• Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition – Education Committee, Ambassador Training nights
• Ambassador presentation to the Island Park Sustainable Firewise program
• Prevention/WUI Info Booths & 4th of July Parades; Big Piney, Afton, Kemmerer, Jackson, Jackson Lake GTNP
• Campground Programs with Smokey Bear in Snake River Canyon & Granite Creek
• Blackrock Field Camp with Wind River/ Fort Washakie 4th and 5 th Graders-278 <i>students</i>
• North Zone coordination of volunteer groups with forest regulation education, fire safety and campfire ring projects -30 <i>volunteers/students</i>
• Era of Mega Fires / public showing and meeting (SCUFF) x 2, Kendall Valley & Pinedale
• Teton Science School field trips for fire education and ecology x 3-60 <i>students</i>
• TAWPC Wildland Fire Preparedness Day
• Eight TAWPC HOA meetings to recruit wildfire Ambassadors

Teton Wildland Fire Module

The Teton Wildland Fire Module (WFM) provides an innovative, safe, highly mobile, logistically independent, and versatile team with a commitment to achieving diverse fire and fuels management objectives. The primary mission of the module is to provide a skilled, efficient workforce to accomplish the full range of wildland fire management tasks including prescribed fire preparation and implementation, managing fire for resource benefit, mechanical fuels reduction, hazard tree removal and wildland fire suppression.

All permanent and seasonal positions were filled for the 2019 season. The Forest Service organization structure added a permanent Senior Firefighter position and two temporary seasonal crewmember positions for a total of 12 personnel. The module was comprised of one

GS-08 Module Supervisor (FS - 18/8), one GS-07 Assistant Supervisor (FS -13/13), two GS-06 Squad Leaders (FS, NPS - 13/13), one GS-05 Senior Firefighter (FS - 13/13), and seven temporary seasonal crew members (four FS, three NPS).

Continuing the tradition of interagency support, the WFM supported detail opportunities and assignments with Helitack and the Teton Crew to help bolster local resource needs and to provide well rounded experience for crewmembers. Task books completed this year include: FAL2, ICT5, FFT1, FEMO, CRWB, HEQB, and RXB2. Additionally, the WFM took the lead in coordinating and teaching L-280 and S-131 and also provided further in-season training and developmental opportunities in S-270, S-215, S-271, S-212, guard school, and UTV training,

The module was staffed and available from April 29th to October 24th and played an important role in accomplishing a wide range of local and national objective in fuels and fire management while maintaining its Type 1 status.

Areas of Emphasis – Teton WFM 2019

Focus Area	Base Time Allocated
Mechanical Hazardous Fuels Reduction	15%
Prescribed Fire Preparation and Implementation	31%
Wildland Fire Management	33%
Training	10%
Other – details, non-fire projects, SAR, leave, etc.	11%

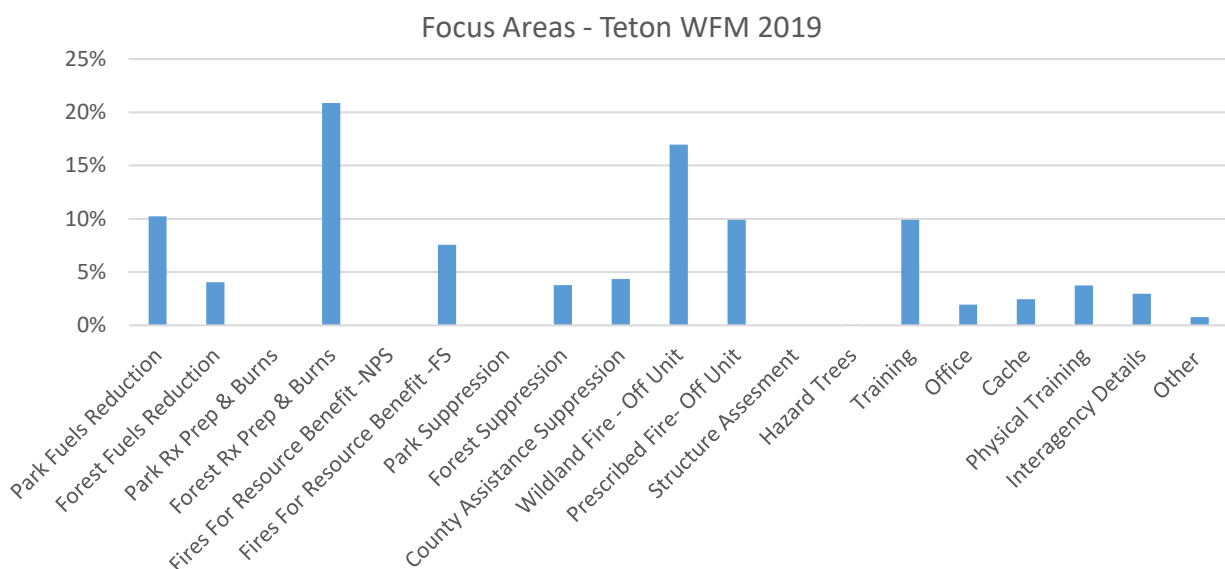
Fuels Workload - Teton WFM 2019

Agency	Unit name	Fuel Type	Size*	Treatment Type
WY-BTF	Trails End RX	Grass/Shrub	C	RX
ID-SCF	Crone Gulch	Shrub/Timber	E	RX
WY-GTP	Pacific Creek	Timber	C	Mechanical
WY-BTF	Sjoberg RX	Slash	C	RX
WY-BTF	Dry Quad	Timber	D	RX Prep
WY-BTF	Teton to Snake	Timber	C	RX Prep, RX-Piles
WY-BTF	White Pine	Timber	E	Mechanical, RX-Piles
WY-BTF	Blackrock admin	Timber	D	Mechanical, RX-Piles

Wildland Fire Management Workload - Teton WFM 2019

Agency	Fire Name	Fuel Type	Size *	Management Action
WY-BTF	Luton	Shrub	B	Suppression
CO-ARF	Beaver	Timber	D	Multiple Objectives
WY-TDX	Museum	Grass/Shrub	C	Suppression
WY-BTF	Flat Creek	Timber	D	Resource Benefit
WY-BTF	Box Creek	Timber	B	Resource Benefit
WY-BTF	Flagstaff	Timber	B	Suppression
WY-TDX	Saddle Butte	Grass/Shrub	D	Suppression
WY-HDD	Boulder Lake	Grass/Shrub	F	Suppression
CO-RGF	Decker	Shrub/Timber	G	Multiple Objectives
WY-BTF	McMichael	Timber	B	Multiple Objectives

* Sizes Class (in acres)	
A	.1 - .25
B	.26 - 9.9
C	10 - 99.9
D	100 - 299.9
E	300 - 999.9
F	1,000 - 4,999.9
G	5,000 +



Focus areas for 2019. Representative values are a percentage of base hours during the 2019 fire season from April 29th through October 24. Overtime from base fuels account codes is included.

Teton Interagency Fire Ecology Program

Teton Interagency Fire Ecology Program - 2019

The Teton Interagency Fire Ecology program provides fuels planning support, fire effects monitoring, fire season outlooks, research coordination, decision support, and fire ecology education for both the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park. Ecology program staff also serve as red-carded wildland firefighters, responding to unplanned fires and conducting prescribed burns.

In 2019, the program included Fire Ecologist Diane Abendroth, Fire Monitor Ron Steffens, Lead Fire Effects Monitor Jill Stephenson, and seasonal fire effects crew members Kate Patronik and Olivia Burke. Ray Lopez was the NPS Academy intern.

The Fire Ecology Staff supported three prescribed burns on the BTNF with detailed Implementation Reports showing the weather, fire behavior, smoke, and burn mosaic mapping. They tracked fuel moisture at numerous sites. Field monitoring in prescribed fire and mechanical thinning units on the park and all three zones of the BT was completed. See Table 1 for specifics.

Two fire ecology research projects are underway on the park and forest. The Fire Effects Crew assisted with field data collection and protocol development.

Table 1. Fire Effects Plot Workload (2019) and Total Plots Installed

Park/ Forest	Monitoring Unit	Plot Type	Pre-burn/ MX 2019	Immed. Post 2019	Postburn (1-20 yrs) 2019	Annual Total (2019)	Total Plots
Grand Teton National Park	Alder Fire	Photopoints			8	8	8
	Bearpaw Bay Fire	Photopoints			5	5	5
	South Blacktail RX	Aspen Circles			30	30	30
	Death Canyon Rd MX	Photopoints			3	3	3
	Powerline Watertank South Half MX	Photopoints Brown's Transects	2 10			12	12
	Signal Mtn. Brinkerhoff	Stand Exams			6	6	10
	Sky Ranch MX	Photopoints	5			5	5
	Row Fire (Year 25)	Shrub Transects Photopoints			60 1	61	61
	Beaver Creek North MX	Photopoints	2			2	2
	Blacktail Fire	Photopoints			6	6	6
	Blacktail Area Bitterbrush RXs	Photopoints			3	3	3
	Cow Lake	Photopoints			2	2	2
North Zone Bridger-Teton NF	Trails End RX	Photopoints Comp & Cover	6 6	3		12	12
	Lower Gros Ventre RX	Photopoints			10	10	10
	Breakneck Aspen RX (Year 45!)	Photopoints			9	9	9
	Lower Palmer RX	Photopoints			10	10	10
	Turpin Meadows MX	Photopoints	4			4	4
	Dry Quad MX	Photopoints Aspen Circles	3 30			33	33
	Taylor Mtn RX	Photopoints Shrub Transects	7 30			37	37
	Mosquito Creek RX	Photopoints Comp & Cover	2 1			3	42

Park/ Forest	Monitoring Unit	Plot Type	Pre-burn/ MX 2019	Immed. Post 2019	Postburn (1-20 yrs) 2019	Annual Total (2019)	Total Plots
West Zone Bridger-Teton NF	Hams Fork Indian Creek Unit 19	Photopoints Ground Cover			2 10	12	12
	Hams Fork Basin Creek Unit 11N	Photopoints	1	3		3	3
	Little Hornet RX	Photopoints Aspen Cirlcs Comp & Cover	8 30 4			42	42
	Strawberry Creek	Photopoints	3			3	9
	Hams Ridge Unit 6	Photopoints Comp & Cover	4 2			6	6
	Hams Ridge Unit 8	Photopoints	3			3	3
	Nugent Park Unit 2	Photopoints Comp & Cover	4 3			7	7
East Zone Bridger-Teton NF	Sylvan Bay Day Use MX	Stand Exams Photopoints			8	8	10
	Marsh Creek RX	Photopoints			3	3	3
	Burnt Lake RX	BFH Macroplots			3	3	3
	Chicken Creek RX	Aspen Circles Ground Cover Photopoints			60 20 5	85	85
	West Fortification RX FEMO Report	Photopoints	3	4		4	4
	Maki Creek MACB2	Aspen Circles Photopoints			30 4	34	35
	Cottonwood II Unit 11 (Nylander) & 13	Aspen Circles Photopoints			30 5	35	35
	Cottonwood II Unit 12 (Sjhoberg) FEMO Report	Photopoints	2	2		2	3
	WG&F Cheatgrass Monitoring	Line Point Intercept	2			2	2
Total			177	12	333	522	560

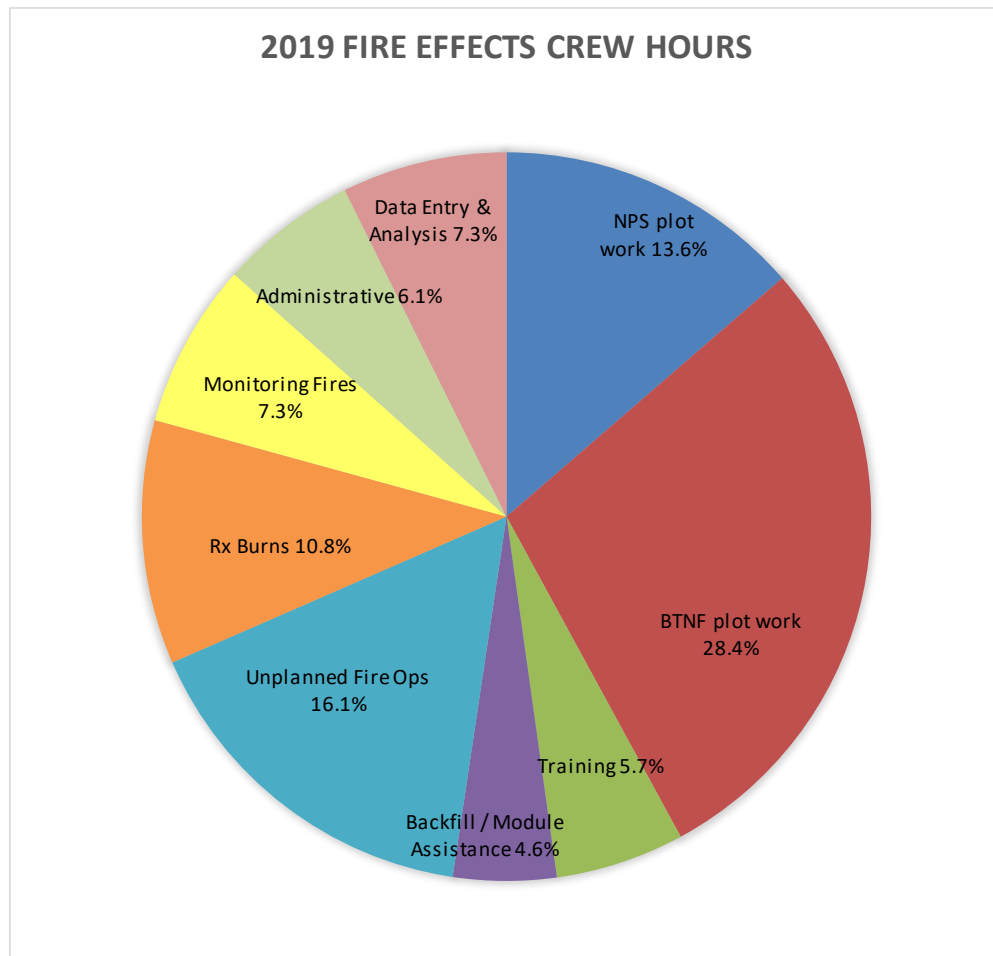
Each year fire effects data is analyzed and findings are summarized in written reports for each project. In addition, fire effects results are presented at Zone and Park level meetings in the spring, so that fire managers can review outcomes and objectives, ask questions, and consider making adjustments to improve future treatments.

In addition to ecology and prescribed fire duties, the group supported wildfire incidents on Type V fires, Type III Teams and IA Crewmembers on Type II Incidents

Figure 1. shows the breakdown of interagency duties that the Fire Effects Crew was involved in during the summer field season. There is a great deal of annual variability, and this year there were more projects on the Forest than on the park. Prescribed fire was unusually low with only

one burn taking place. Fire suppression now includes monitoring (formerly “Fire Use”) and decision support as well as true firefighting.

Figure 1. Fire Effects Hourly Plot Workload (2019)





Fire Effects Crew assisting with fuel data collection as part of a University of Wisconsin LiDAR Research Project.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center (TIDC) provides dispatch support to multiple all-risk functional areas, including fire, aviation, prescribed fire, law enforcement, search-and-rescue, and medical emergencies. TIDC was staffed 24 hours per day from June through September. Following is an overview of the 2019 incidents supported by TIDC:

Fire:

- ☐ Wildland Fires:
 - 31 BTNF 6 County
 - 9 GTNP 0 NER
- ☐ Acres Burned:
 - 14.70 acres BTNF
 - 0.80 acres GTNP
 - 0 acres NER
 - 363.94 acres County
- ☐ Acres Prescribed Fire:
 - 631.10 acres BTNF
 - 35.55 acres GTNP
- ☐ Initial Attack Dispatch Support:
 - 3 IADP -Initial Attack Dispatchers
- ☐ Expanded Dispatch:
 - TIDC Expanded dispatch did not open this season

Aviation:

- ☐ Supported 2 exclusive-use helicopters:
 - 207.6 fire mission flight hours
 - 88.6 non-fire mission flight hours
 - 26.1 SAR flight hours
- ☐ Flight Following Operations non fire related:
 - 29 flights
 - 80 hours 9 minutes

CASE INCIDENTS for 2019:**Medical Emergencies:**

- ☐ Dispatch 3 ambulances for GTNP:
 - 249 Emergency Medical Service responses

Search-and-Rescue:

- ☐ Supported numerous SAR personnel during mountain, lake, and river rescues:
 - 64 SAR responses
 - 37 Major SAR responses
- ☐ Coordinated with 5 counties:
 - Teton, Lincoln, Fremont, Sublette, & Park Co.

Law Enforcement:

- ☐ Supported 42 LE personnel for GTNP and 3 for BTNF
- ☐ Support Outside Agencies on Request:
 - Teton County Sheriff's Office Sublette
 - County Sheriff's Office Lincoln County
 - Sheriff's Office Fremont County
 - Sheriff's Office Jackson Police
 - Department Wyoming Highway Patrol
 - Wyoming Game & Fish
 - National Elk Refuge

General:

- ☐ TIDC staff:
 - 7 Permanent positions (Dual function: All-Risk & Fire)
 - 1 Permanent All Risk Dispatcher Detailer
 - 2 Seasonal positions (4 All-Risk & 1 Wildland Fire)

Land Ownership Report

USDA Forest Service, calendar year 2012, Region 04

Forest 03, BTNF Summary of acres by state,
reference FSM 5186.8

Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries protected by the Forest Service

Form FS-5100-9 Land Ownership Protection Report

USDAFOREST SERVICE							Calendar Year 2019		
LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT							Region 4		
(Summary of acres by states)							NF Bridger Teton		
STATE	INSIDE FOREST SERVICE PROTECTION BOUNDARIES PROTECTED BY THE FOREST SERVICE							S&P LAND PROTECTED	National Forest Land Protected Others
	State and Private Land							by STATE and FS	
			Reimburse	Without					
	Fee Basis	Offset Basis	Suppression	Reimbursement	Other Federal	N F Land	Total		
Wyoming					24,700 (NER)	3,465,196	3489.896		